

From: Scott Couch [mailto:SCOUCH@waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2008 2:46 PM
To: List, Kelley
Cc: Shopay, Norman
Subject: Copy of SD Prop 50 grant award support letter

FYI, we received the signed version of the attached letter from Mark Stadler under a separate e-mail. We also had previously received the legislative support letter from Ducheny et al.

>>> "Alyson Watson" <AWatson@rmcwater.com> 5/13/2008 3:04:28 PM >>>
Dear Regional Advisory Committee members:

As promised at our meeting Tuesday, attached are the Prop 50 IRWMP grant award support letter that the RWMG is sending to the state and the letter that the San Diego legislative delegation sent in support of our grant application (as arranged by our lobbyists in Sacramento). As to contact information:

For support letters: The IRWMP grant website says to send letters by May 15 at 5 p.m. to: Scott Couch, at the State Water Resources Control Board, at scouch@waterboards.ca.gov. You will note that we chose to send our letter to Lester Snow at DWR and Dorothy Rice at the SWRCB – Lester makes the final decision at DWR and, while the State Board votes to approve the final package, Dorothy is the top staff person there. We sent a copy of the letter to Scott, however, among other people (like you).

For legislative advocacy on behalf of the \$6.4 million funding shift requested by DWR and retaining the entire package of projects included in the San Diego grant application: Jeff Volberg, the Water Authority governmental relations manager in Sacramento, told me that the most important person to contact is Senator Ducheny. She is the chairperson of the Senate Budget Committee and she is aware of the issue thanks to the ongoing efforts of our lobbyists. Certainly, he added, it wouldn't hurt for RAC members to contact their local legislators, or the Governor, for that matter. Jeff told me our lobbyists are very much on top of this issue. They are working with both Senate and Assembly budget staff to figure out what is going on with the groundwater money. Senator Ducheny is especially helpful because she is not only the Budget Committee chairperson, but she is from San Diego and wants the region to get the most it can.

For those of you who missed the RAC meeting and may be wondering about the "\$6.4 million" comment in the paragraph above, here's what's up: DWR definitely has \$20.7 million to allocate for the Prop. 50 IRWMP grant program. All of that money goes to the San Diego region, under the draft funding list released by the state. DWR has requested that another \$6.4 million be shifted to the IRWMP program. If the shift is made, most of that money will go to our grant application so we get the maximum \$25 million grant. The reason a reallocation is needed is that, while the funds are "located" in the Prop 50, Chapter 8 budget, they currently are earmarked for a local groundwater assistance program.

Following are some points you may wish to make if you advocate for the \$6.4 million fund shift and retaining the entire package of projects in our grant application (and please keep the RWMG informed about any advocacy efforts):

- The projects in the San Diego IRWM Plan will help to expand reliable local water supplies and water quality. These projects are especially important given that the San Diego Region's imported water supplies have been significantly reduced in recent years. Southern California lost half of its traditional Colorado River supply earlier this decade and court-ordered pumping restrictions reduced State Water Project deliveries by approximately 30 percent this year.
- The San Diego IRWM Plan serves a region with close to 3 million people. Our needs in the areas of water supply and water quality reflect the large population we serve, our lack of reliable local water resources and the complexity of our natural habitats.
- San Diego traditionally has been a "donor" region that sends more money to Sacramento than it receives. We need to begin to bring things into a better balance.

Please contact me if you need further information or I can help in any way. Thanks!

Mark Stadler
San Diego County Water Authority
On behalf of the RWMG